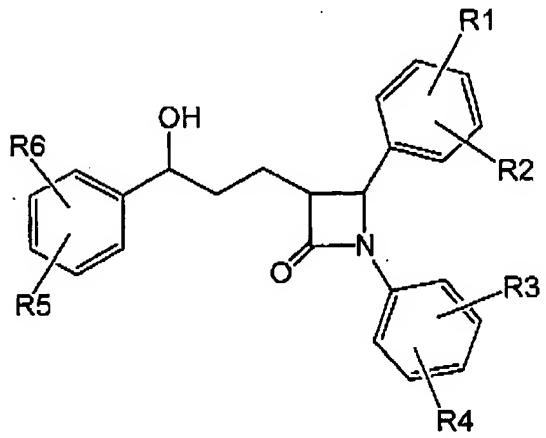
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A compound of the formula I,



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,

in which

R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6 independently of one another are (C_0-C_{30})-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -(C=O)-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)-, -N((C_1-C_6)-alkylphenyl)- or -NH-; or

H, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, CN, COOH, COO(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, CON[(C_1-C_6)-alky]$_2$, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl or O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, where one, more or all hydrogens in the alkyl radicals may be replaced by fluorine; or

SO_2-NH_2, $SO_2NH(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $SO_2N[(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$]_2$, S-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, S-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, SO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, SO-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, SO_2-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or SO_2-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6 and the phenyl radical may be substituted up to two times by F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or NH_2; or

NH_2, NH-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $N((C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$)_2$, $NH(C_1$-$C_7)$-acyl, phenyl, O-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6, where the phenyl ring may be mono- to trisubstituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, NH_2, $NH(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $N((C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$)_2$, SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

(LAG) is a sugar residue, disugar residue, trisugar residue, tetrasugar residue; a sugar acid, an amino sugar;

an amino acid residue, an oligopeptide residue comprising 2 to 9 amino acids;

a trialkylammoniumalkyl radical; or -O-(SO_2)-OH;

wherein at least one of the radicals R1 to R6 has the meaning $(C_0$-$C_{30})$-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -(C=O)-, -CH=CH-, -C≡C-, -N($(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl)-, -N($(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylphenyl)- or -NH-, and where the radicals R1 and R2 may not have the meaning -O-sugar residue or -O-sugar acid.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6 independently of one another are $(C_0$-$C_{30})$-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -(C=O)-, -N($(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl)- or -NH-; or

H, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, CN, COOH, $COO(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, $CONH_2$, $CONH(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, $CON[(C_1-C_6)\text{-alkyl}]_2$, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl or $O-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, where one, more or all hydrogens in the alkyl radicals may be replaced by fluorine; or

SO_2-NH_2, $SO_2NH(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, $SO_2N[(C_1-C_6)\text{-alkyl}]_2$, $S-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, $S-(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, $SO-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, $SO-(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, $SO_2-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl or $SO_2-(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 - 6 and the phenyl radical may be substituted up to two times by F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, $O-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or NH_2; or

NH_2, $NH-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, $N((C_1-C_6)\text{-alkyl})_2$, $NH(C_1-C_7)$-acyl, phenyl or $O-(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6 and the phenyl ring may be mono- to trisubstituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, $O-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, NH_2, $NH(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl, $N((C_1-C_6)\text{-alkyl})_2$, SO_2-CH_3, COOH, $COO-(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

(LAG) is a sugar residue, disugar residue, trisugar residue, tetrasugar residue; a sugar acid, an amino sugar;

an amino acid residue, an oligopeptide residue comprising 2 to 9 amino acids;

a trialkylammoniumalkyl radical; or $-O-(SO_2)-OH$;

wherein at least one of the radicals R1 to R6 has the meaning (C_0-C_{30})-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -(C=O)-, $-N((C_1-C_6)\text{-alkyl})-$ or -NH-, and where the radicals R1 and R2 may not have the meaning -O-sugar residue or -O-sugar acid.

3. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6 independently of one another are (C_0-C_{30})-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -(C=O)-, -N(C_3)- or -NH-; or

H, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, CN, COOH, COO(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, CON[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]$_2$, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl or O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, where one, more or all hydrogens in the alkyl radicals may be replaced by fluorine; or

SO_2-NH_2, SO_2NH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2N[(C_1-C_6)-alkyl]$_2$, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or SO_2-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6 and the phenyl radical may be substituted up to two times by F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or NH_2; or

NH_2, NH-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)$_2$, NH(C_1-C_7)-acyl, phenyl or O-(CH_2)$_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6 and the phenyl ring may be mono- to trisubstituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, NH_2, NH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N((C_1-C_6)-alkyl)$_2$, SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

(LAG) is a sugar residue, disugar residue, trisugar residue, tetrasugar residue; a sugar acid; an amino sugar;

an amino acid residue, an oligopeptide residue comprising 2 to 9 amino acids;

a trialkylammoniumalkyl radical; or -O-(SO_2)-OH;

wherein at least one of the radicals R1 or R6 has the meaning (C_0-C_{30})-alkylene-(LAG), where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by -O-, -

(C=O)-, -N(CH_3)- or -NH-, and where the radicals R1 and R2 may not have the meaning -O-sugar residue or -O-sugar acid.

4. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6 independently of one another are

-$(CH_2)_{0-1}$-NH-$(C=O)_{0-1}$-(C_3-C_{25})-alkylene-$(C=O)_{0-1}$-N$(R7)_{0-1}$-LAG,where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by oxygen atoms, or

H, F, Cl, Br, I, CF_3, NO_2, CN, COOH, COO(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, $CONH_2$, CONH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, CON$[(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl$]_2$, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl or O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, where one, more or all hydrogens in the alkyl radicals may be replaced by fluorine; or

SO_2-NH_2, SO_2NH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2N$[(C_1-C_6)$-alkyl$]_2$, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or SO_2-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 – 6 and the phenyl radical may be substituted up to two times by F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or NH_2; or

NH_2, NH-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N$((C_1-C_6)$-alkyl$)_2$, NH(C_1-C_7)acyl, phenyl or O-$(CH_2)_n$-phenyl, where n = 0 - 6 and the phenyl ring may be mono- to trisubstituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, NH_2, NH(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N$((C_1-C_6)$-alkyl$)_2$, SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

R7 is H or CH_3;

(LAG) is a sugar residue;

where one of the radicals R1 or R3 has the meaning $-(CH_2)_{0-1}-NH-(C=O)_{0-1}-(C_3-C_{25})$-alkylene-$(C=O)_{0-1}-N(R7)_{0-1}$-LAG, where one or more carbon atoms of the alkylene radical may be replaced by oxygen atoms.

5. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more of the compounds as claimed in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical combination comprising one or more compounds as claimed in claim 1 and at least one further compound[~~as claimed in claim 6, wherein said at least one further pharmacologically active compound comprises one or more compounds~~] chosen from:

antidiabetics, hypoglycemically active compounds, 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl Coenzyme A (HMGCoA) reductase inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, peroxisome proliferator activated receptor (PPAR) gamma agonists, PPAR alpha agonists, PPAR alpha/gamma agonists, fibrates, microsomal triglyceride transfer protein (MTP) inhibitors, bile acid absorption inhibitors, cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) inhibitors, polymeric bile acid adsorbers, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor inducers, acyl-Co-enzyme A:cholesterol acyltransferase (ACAT) inhibitors, antioxidants, lipoprotein lipase inhibitors, adenosine triphosphate (ATP) citrate lyase inhibitors, squalene synthetase inhibitors, lipoprotein(a) antagonists, lipase inhibitors, insulins, sulfonyl ureas, biguanides, meglitinides, thiazolidindiones, α-glucosidase inhibitors, active compounds which act on the ATP-dependent potassium channel of the beta

cells, cocaine and amphetamine-regulated transcript (CART) agonists, neuropeptide Y (NPY) agonists, melanocortin 4 receptor (MC4) agonists, orexin agonists, histone 3 (H3) agonists, tumor necrosis factor (TNF) agonists, corticotropin releasing factor (CRF) agonists, corticotropin releasing factor-binding protein (CRF BP) antagonists, urocortin agonists, beta-3 adrenergic (β3) agonists, melanocyte-stimulating hormone (MSH) agonists, cholecystokinin (CCK) agonists, serotonin-reuptake inhibitors, mixed serotonin and noradrenergic compounds, 5-hydroxytryptamine (5HT) agonists, bombesin agonists, galanin antagonists, growth hormones, growth hormone-releasing compounds, thyrotropin releasing hormone (TRH) agonists, decoupling protein 2- or 3-modulators, leptin agonists, dopamine autoreceptor (DA) agonists, lipase/amylase inhibitors, PPAR modulators, retinoid X receptor (RXR) modulators or thyroid hormone resistance agonists (TR-β-agonists) or amphetamines.

~~[antidiabetics, hypoglycemically-active compounds, HMGCoA (3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl Coenzyme A) reductase inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, PPAR (peroxisome proliferator activated receptor) gamma agonists, PPAR alpha agonists, PPAR alpha/gamma agonists, fibrates, MTP (microsomal triglyceride transfer protein) inhibitors, bile acid absorption inhibitors, CETP (cholesteryl ester transfer protein) inhibitors, polymeric bile acid adsorbers, LDL (low density lipoprotein) receptor inducers, ACAT (acyl Co-enzyme A:cholesterol acyltransferase) inhibitors, antioxidants, lipoprotein lipase inhibitors, ATP (adenosine triphosphate) citrate lyase inhibitors, squalene synthetase inhibitors, lipoprotein(a) antagonists, lipase inhibitors, insulins, sulfonyl ureas, biguanides, meglitinides, thiazolidindiones, α-glucosidase inhibitors,~~

~~active compounds which act on the ATP-dependent potassium channel of the beta-cells, CART (cocaine-and-amphetamine-regulated transcript) agonists, NPY (neuropeptide Y) agonists, MC4 (melanocortin 4 receptor) agonists, orexin agonists, H3 (histone 3) agonists, TNF (tumor necrosis factor) agonists, CRF (corticotropin releasing factor) agonists, CRF BP (corticotropin-releasing factor-binding protein) antagonists, urocortin agonists, β3 (beta-3 adrenergic) agonists, MSH (melanocyte-stimulating hormone) agonists, CCK (cholecystokinin) agonists, serotonin reuptake inhibitors, mixed serotonin and noradrenergic compounds, 5HT (5-hydroxytryptamine) agonists, bombesin agonists, galanin antagonists, growth hormones, growth hormone releasing compounds, TRH (thyrotropin releasing hormone) agonists, decoupling protein 2- or 3-modulators, leptin agonists, DA (dopamine autoreceptor) agonists, lipase/amylase inhibitors, PPAR modulators, RXR (retinoid X receptor) modulators or TR-β agonists (thyroid hormone resistance agonists) or amphetamines.]~~

9. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of impaired lipid metabolism, which comprises administering to a host in need of the treatment an effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of hyperlipidemia, which comprises administering to a host in need of the treatment an effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) A method for lowering or maintaining a desired level of serum cholesterol concentration in a host, which comprises administering to the host in need of lowering or maintaining of serum cholesterol concentration an effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for treating insulin resistance, which comprises administering to a host in need of the treatment an effective amount of at least one compound as claimed in claim 1.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)